

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A charging and communication system for a handheld computer system, said handheld computer system having a first interface for receiving power and data communication signals, said charging and communication system comprising:
- a charger system for supplying electrical power, said charger system having a second interface for coupling with said first interface; and
  - a data communication and charging cable, said data communication and charging cable comprising
    - a third interface for coupling to said handheld computer system,
    - a fourth interface for coupling to a second computer system, and
    - a fifth interface for coupling to said second interface of said charger system.
2. The charging and communication system of claim 1 wherein said fourth interface comprises a Universal Serial Bus interface.
3. The charging and communication system of claim 1 wherein said fourth interface comprises a standard serial interface.

1                   4.     The charging and communication system of claim 1 wherein said  
2 third interface comprises a small connector for coupling to said first interface of handheld  
3 computer system.

1                   5.     The charging and communication system of claim 1 wherein said  
2 third interface comprises a docking cradle for coupling to said first interface of handheld  
3 computer system.

1                   6.     The charging and communication system of claim 1 further  
2 comprising:  
3                   a docking cradle, said docking cradle including a sixth interface for coupling to  
4                   said third interface.

1                   7.     The charging and communication system of claim 6 wherein said  
2 docking cradle comprises a seventh interface, said seventh interface for coupling to said  
3 first interface on said handheld computer system.

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1           8.     A method of providing charging power and data communication  
2 signals to a handheld computer system, said handheld computer system having a first  
3 interface for receiving power and data communication signals, said method comprising:  
4         coupling a second interface on a data communication and charging cable to said  
5         first interface of said handheld computer system, said data communication and  
6         charging cable further comprising a third interface for receiving data signals  
7         and a fourth interface for receiving power; and  
8         a charger system for supplying electrical power, said charger system having a fifth  
9         interface for coupling with said first interface on said handheld computer  
10        system or said fourth interface on said data communication and charging  
11        cable.

1           9.     The method of claim 8 wherein said third interface comprises a  
2 Universal Serial Bus interface.

1           10.    The method of claim 8 wherein said third interface comprises a  
2 standard serial interface.

1           11.    The method of claim 8 wherein said second interface comprises a  
2 small connector for coupling to said first interface of handheld computer system and  
3 includes a button.

1                   12.    The method of claim 8 wherein said second interface comprises a  
2   docking cradle for coupling to said first interface of handheld computer system.

1                   13.    The method of claim 8 further comprising:  
2   dropping said handheld computer system into a docking cradle comprising a sixth  
3   interface for coupling with said first interface.

1                   14.    The method of claim 8 further comprising:  
2   coupling a seventh interface to said second interface, said seventh interface on  
3   said docking cradle coupled to said sixth on said docking cradle.

1                   15.    A charging circuit for a handheld computer system, said charging  
2   circuit comprising:  
3   a battery;  
4   a first transistor for charging said battery;  
5   a charging control circuit for controlling said first transistor; and  
6   an indicator circuit, said indicator circuit powered by said battery using leakage  
7   current passing through said first transistor when said transistor is turned off.

1           16.    The charging circuit of claim 15 wherein said indicator circuit  
2 comprises a light emitting diode.

1           17.    The charging circuit of claim 15 wherein said first transistor  
2 comprises a field effect transistor.

1           18.    The charging circuit for a handheld computer system of claim 15,  
2 said charging circuit further comprising:  
3           a second transistor for controlling said indicator circuit.

1           19.    The charging circuit for a handheld computer system of claim 15,  
2 said charging circuit further comprising:  
3           a processor for controlling said charging control circuit.

1           20.    The charging circuit for a handheld computer system of claim 18,  
2 said charging circuit further comprising:  
3           a processor for controlling said second transistor .